**Cooperation: All Star Teams - April 5th**

**Suggestions for team activities:**

* **Begin by showing the read aloud of Swimmy by Leo Lionni.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-juqmKIJqk>

* **Discussion questions to follow-**

1. **What do you think cooperation means?**

* act of working or acting together for a common purpose or benefit; joint action.

1. **Why is cooperation important?**
2. **How did Swimmy and his friends use cooperation?**
3. **How can we use cooperation at school? At home?**

* **Introduce Balloon Bop Activity. Discuss how students can use cooperation- either before you do the activity or reflect about it afterward.**
* **Balloon Bop:**   
  <http://www.responsiveclassroom.org/blog/cooperative-games-younger-students>

This is such a fun game for all students! Great for the younger students to begin learning cooperation, but also great for the older students as they begin to master skills! You can play this as a whole class or in groups (your choice in number of students, size of group).

**Materials:** Balloon(s) (Balloons will be available in the office on top of the filing cabinets by Tue. You can take 3 for your group. You can split the group into small groups at first if you want and then try it as a large group.)

Students begin by standing in a circle, holding hands. The teacher drops one balloon into the circle. The goal is for students to see how many times they can tap the balloon into the air (**students may tap the balloon with hands, arms, heads, shoulders, chests, or knees—but NO feet**), keeping it up in the air, without losing connection (**all students must continue holding hands**). In order for this to work effectively, students have to work cooperatively, each of them making sure they are not letting go of their neighbor’s hands. They will soon figure out that they must all move together, as a circle, so to make sure they do not lose connection. If the balloon falls to the ground or a student taps the balloon with their feet, the count begins again. Depending on grade level, you can add more balloons to make it more challenging!

***Before playing:*** Teacher can model how to tap the balloon lightly in order to keep the balloon up in the air. Try this with the students individually and then in partners. Once they are successful at keeping their balloon in the air without dropping their partner’s hands, add more students to the group until they form one whole circle. Let the game begin!